

AN EARLY NEW JERSEY INSECT COLLECTION

In 1831 Professor Benedict Jaeger, a native of Austria, visited the United States and was engaged in 1832 by the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University, to put the Zoological Museum in good order. Later in that year he was appointed curator of the Museum and Lecturer on Natural History at a salary of \$200 per year. He also taught German, Italian, and French, probably for additional remuneration. In 1839 he offered his private cabinet of natural history including 2,000 specimens of insects to the College, provided his salary was paid in advance. The Board of Trustees agreed to this but he resigned in September 1841 and his account with the College was left in confusion and it was not until 1846 that a committee of the Board was appointed to settle the controversy. The Princeton University Library has a copy of his manuscript "Museum Neo-Caesariensis" dated 1832, which is a catalogue of the natural history specimens in the college museum. The insects included 252 species in the Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Neuroptera, Hymenoptera, Diptera and Aptera, all collected at Princeton. Nothing remains of this collection of insects. If any escaped the first fire in Nassau Hall, they must have been destroyed by the second fire of March 10, 1855, when the entire interior was demolished.—H.B.W.



Weiss, Harry B. 1949. "An Early New Jersey Insect Collection." *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* 57, 202–202.

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